Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—If it is one of the factors, may I know what the Government intend to do?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government cannot do anything.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—(b). Is it not a matter of common knowing that in some of the offences at least the motive must have been self-preservation?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government do not know.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—That is contradicting your previous answer.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I said only likely. It is not contradictory.

Allowing Cochin cars plying in British India—Reply of the Madras Government regarding.

316. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state what, if any, is the reply they have received from the Madras Government regarding the question of allowing motor cars in Cochin to ply in British India?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Certain proposals regarding reciprocal exemption have been received from the Madras Government. As they are not to the advantage of the Darbar it has been decided to have the *status quo* undisturbed.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—What were the proposals of the Madras Government?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I will read the letter from the Madras Government.

Letter dated 16th June 1933, P. 3619/31 from the Agent to the Governor-General, Madras States, to the Diwan of Cochin.

Subject:—Tolls—exemption from—buses plying partly in the Madras Presidency and partly in Indian States.

Reference:—Your letter No. P. W. 5-5627/07, dated 10th May 1933.

"I have the honour to inform you that the Madras Government are prepared to enter into an agreement with the Cochin Government in the matter of payment of taxes and tolls on motor vehicles on the following basis:—

(1) Madras Government will reduce the tax payable in respect of motor vehicles (including cars, buses and lorries), registered in the Cochin State and using the roads in the Madras Presidency, to two-thirds of the usual amount provided that the owners of such vehicles are *bona fide* residents of the Cochin State. A certificate to this effect from the Agent to the Governor-General or his Assistant should be produced by the owners.

(2) The Cochin Government should, on their part, agree to reduce the toll payable to the State by motor vehicles registered in the Presidency to two-thirds of the normal rate.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly let me know whether the Cochin Government agree to this arrangement.

I. The Government of Madras however regret their inability to comply with the request of the Cochin Government that, pending a settlement of

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the question of a reciprocal arrangement, motor vehicles registered in the State which have necessarily to use the roads in the Presidency may be exempted from the tax leviable under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act."

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Did you give any reply?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes. I said it is damaging to us.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will you please read that letter?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—

Subject:—Tolls—exemption from—buses plying partly in the Madras Presidency and partly in the State.

Reference:—Order P. W. 5.5627/07, dated 21st June 1933.

"On a rough estimate, there will be only at the most 40 buses running through the State and British Territory. Of these, only a few are owned by *bona fide* Cochinites. All others belong to persons who are British subjects. Of the buses belonging to the latter category, some have to pay two tolls and others only one toll every day. With regard to cars, I may submit that there are only very few owners who may have to go to British parts frequently and such persons may not grudge to pay the full tax which comes to only Rs. 25 per quarter. By paying this amount, they can take their cars throughout the Madras Presidency; as such they are better off than when tolls were in existence. Under the proposed agreement the tax payable in respect of cars and buses using the British roads, will be reduced to two-thirds of the usual amount if we agree to reduce the toll payable to the State by vehicles coming from British parts to two-thirds of the normal rate. If the total number of buses and cars that ply from our State to British and vice versa is taken into consideration, I think the balance of advantage is decidedly on the side of the Britishers.

In this connection I may also submit that if the terms proposed by the Agent to the Governor-General are accepted, there is every likelihood of a very considerable fall in the Toll Revenue of our State. The very existence of such an agreement, apart from its real consequences, will tend to dissuade people from boldly bidding at auctions. Further, a certificate regarding the *bona fides* of the applicant from the Agent to the Governor-General is made compulsory in all cases where people desire to take advantage of the proposed concession. This provision also is not very advantageous to the applicant as it will cause delay and inconvenience."

(True copy)

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Did our Government make any counter proposals?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They decided to let the existing practice continue.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Is not a nativity certificate issued by our Government trustworthy?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—On that particular point, I think they will agree. But that is not the main point. This is only a minor point. After all there should be certificate from a reliable person, say, a District Magistrate or Police Commissioner.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—According to the present arrangement, suppose a British car comes to the Cochin State they will have

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to pay eight annas or ten annas and suppose we want to go we will have to pay Rs. 25 for a quarter. Suppose a man only wanted to go once he will have to pay Rs. 25. Is it possible to come to a mutual arrangement by which the British cars will be allowed entrance to the Cochin territory free of tolls and vice versa?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Madras Government will not agree to it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will you kindly address the Government on these lines? That will give us great relief. Otherwise the necessity of imposing Rs. 15 on every Madras car for the first time may be considered by our Government. Then that will be equalising our position.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We will consider the suggestion.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—In the Chittur taluk the British territory is within three miles. It is very difficult to go outside with one's own car without entering British territory. I represented the matter to the Police Commissioner. This is only for the information of the House, being a matter of local interest.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Have the Government any statistics to show the number of cars that enter Cochin territory from British parts?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes. Roughly the traffic department has supplied these figures.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Are the Government aware that there is real hardship in the matter?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will they be pleased to negotiate with the British Government for better terms instead of leaving it there?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We will consider the two suggestions made by the Hon'ble Member for Cheruviruthi.

Well-boring experiment at Peringavu—results of.

317. Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what the results of the well-boring experiment at Peringavu (Trichur) are; and,

(b) whether the expected supply would be sufficient to satisfy the needs of Ramavarmapuram, the Central Jail and the Trichur Municipality?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) The yield of the bore-hole is 3,800 gallons of water per hour. The water is found to be slightly brackish. Trials are being made to see if the quality could be improved by continuous pumping.

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